

**OFFICE MEMO**

<b>TO:</b>  Flood Management	<b>DATE:</b>  August 10, 2006
<b>FROM:</b> Dena Uding, Chief Flood Control Project Subventions	<b>SUBJECT:</b>  Please join me in welcoming the new Flood Control Project Subventions Staff.

This memo is a bit overdue for some and a bit premature for others, but I would like to introduce you to some new and upcoming Flood Control Project Subventions Staff and tell you a little bit about our program.

**Cale Nasca** has been with us since June 14<sup>th</sup> and has done a tremendous job in helping me get organized and preparing a critical payment for Napa. He is currently a senior at Sacramento State where he's pursuing a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering and is a member and officer of the Sacramento State ASCE and is the 2007 Steel Bridge Captain. He also has an A.S. degree in Engineering and Physics from Bakersfield College. When he has spare time, he enjoys watching movies, playing basketball and tennis, and swimming. His favorite flavor of ice cream is Cookies-n-Cream.

**Deanna Denton** has been with us since August 2<sup>nd</sup> and filled one of the two Associate Governmental Program Analyst positions. She has 25 years of state service, 19 of which are with DWR and 6 are with EDD. Of her 19 years with DWR, she has been with DOE for 13 years and DFM for the past 6 years. She spends her spare time with her husband of 12 years and her two sons Nick, age 11, and Marcus, age 9. She enjoys to camp in their trailer, which has full hookups, watch TV, and gamble in casinos. Her favorite flavor of ice cream is Pralines-n-Cream.

**Sherry Constancio** has also been with us since August 2<sup>nd</sup> and has taken on the responsibilities of Project Authorization Lead. After spending the first half of her 9-year career with the State as a regulator (aka "water cop") in both drinking water (DHS) and wastewater (RWQCB), she decided to venture out of the water quality field and figure out just where all this water was actually coming from. She arrived at DWR and has spent the past 4 years as part of the Hydrology and Flood Operations Team. She and her husband, Manuel, devote most of their spare time these days to mommy-daddy duty and having fun keeping up with their spirited 17-month old son, Caleb. Particular activities they enjoy include: traveling to both new and familiar places, spending long weekends on the North Coast, cooking, wine-tasting, entertaining family and friends at home, snowboarding, and making regular donations to casinos. Her favorite flavor of ice cream is Mint Chocolate Chip from Baskin Robbins, followed by Coldstone Creamery's "Cookie Doughn't You Want Some" with cake batter ice cream.

**Jeff Parsons** will be joining us on Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> and will be filling one of the three claims reviewer positions. He has worked in the fields of nuclear power, submarine design, rocket science, and more recently, alternative fuels at the California Energy Commission. His wife, Linda, and three daughters, Veronica, Cassandra, and Rebecca, are the mainstay of his life. He enjoys traveling, visiting historical sites, pencil drawing, reading sci-fi/adventure, writing, watching comedy, practicing martial arts and fencing, and playing computer games. In the future, it is highly likely that he will once again fly airplanes, sail in the sea, hike in the woods, and tell silly, but funny, jokes. He really likes dark chocolate ice cream and Starbucks coffee, but won't admit it.

**Varda Disho** will also be joining us on Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> and will be filling another of the three claims reviewer positions. He comes to us from DPLA's Fish Passage Improvement Program and has been with the Department for 15 years. Prior to coming to DWR, he worked for the Corps and in the private sector. He loves fresh fruits, hiking, biking, and traveling. He is a faithful follower of the Discovery Channel, "60 Minutes," Frontline, Nova, and Masterpiece Theater, enjoys reading biographies, has taken some astronomy classes in college and is fascinated with our universe and NASA's space programs, and is famous for his homemade salads and soups. He can read and write in three different languages and can speak a total of five. He enjoys playing a challenging game of chess, but to escape from it all, he turns to painting with water colors and listening to Mozart and Andrea Bocelli. His favorite flavor of ice cream is Mint Chocolate Chip, but he has to watch his sugar intake.

***"Just what are Flood Control Project Subventions, anyway?!"*** It took me quite some time to figure this out myself. The "subventions" are basically payments to the local agencies to aide in the construction of new flood control projects. We participate in a cost-share for specific aspects of a flood control project with the non-Federal sponsors in federally authorized flood control projects outside of the State Plan of Flood Control. The program hasn't had funding or staff (except for the program manager) for quite some time. As a result, a backlog of claims has built up to the tune of \$170 million in approximately 180 claims for reimbursement, and the claims continue to pour in. Luckily, the Budget Act of 2006 included 7 positions for Subventions and \$100 million for local agency assistance. Of the 7 positions I acquired, one has been reassigned to Les Harder, 3 have been filled with the aforementioned engineers, 1 has been filled with an Associate Governmental Program Analyst, and 2 remain vacant. We will be advertising in the upcoming weeks for an additional engineer and AGPA.

Aside from reimbursing the locals, we will be developing some innovative ways to track our projects and expenditures by incorporating the real estate and project data into GIS, using Oracle as the backbone to our database and creating some nifty web interfaces so anyone can query the information based on their own criteria. We will also be developing the (aboveground) regulations to implement AB-1147, which defines the criteria for new flood control projects coming online, and will turn the existing "guidelines" for the program into official regulations as well. As new projects come online and to familiarize ourselves with the existing projects, there will be plenty of opportunities for us to tour the flood control projects firsthand. Currently, flood control projects participating in the Subventions Program are located in Napa, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Santa Clara.

We're located on the first floor in Room 140, so stop by and say HELLO! Oh, and my all-time favorite flavor of ice cream is Mint Chocolate Chip from Baskin Robbins, with Jamocha Almond Fudge as being a very close runner up. ☺